

# Family Finding & Engagement for Youth in Custody

- ▶ - Practical steps for locating and engaging supportive adults
- ▶ - Focused on youth in custody

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# Permanency is

- ▶ A lifelong, stable relationship between a youth and at least one committed adult who provides safety, love, support, and a sense of belonging, while honoring the youth's identity, family ties, and legal rights.

# What is the Impact of Permanent Relationships for Youth in Custody

- Reduced recidivism
- Fewer behavioral issues
- Better long-term outcomes
- Supports rehabilitation
- Improved familial relationships

# Core Principles

- ▶ - Youth leads the process at their pace
- ▶ - Every youth has family or caring adults worth exploring
- ▶ - Family engagement supports stability and reentry

# Step 1: Engage the Youth

- ▶ - Meet consistently and explain the process clearly
- ▶ - Listen without judgment; create emotional safety
- ▶ - Explore who matters to them right now

# Step 2: Search for Connections

- ▶ - Record mining: past placements, relatives, caregivers
- ▶ - Tools: genograms, ecomaps, circles of support
- ▶ - Look for extended family, mentors, teachers, CASAs

## TOOLS

### ? Genogram

- is a graphic representation of a family tree that displays detailed data on relationships among individuals. It goes beyond a traditional family tree by allowing the user to analyze hereditary patterns and psychological factors that punctuate relationships.

### ? Ecomap

- is a diagram that shows the social and personal relationships of an individual with his or her environment

### ? Circles of support

## Step 3: Outreach to Identified Connections

- ▶ - Respectful initial contact—explain your role
- ▶ - Rebuild strained relationships when possible
- ▶ - Clarify expectations, boundaries, and youth needs

# Step 4: Support Engagement

- ▶ - Prepare both youth and family before reconnecting
- ▶ - Coordinate calls or visits when appropriate
- ▶ - Move slowly—help youth unpack fears and hesitation



# Step 5: Collaboration With Probation

- ▶ - Youth access for interviews
- ▶ - Updates on court status or restrictions
- ▶ - Support with scheduling communication or visits

## Step 6: Move Toward Permanency

- ▶ - Identify long-term committed adults
- ▶ - Separate relational permanency from placement options
- ▶ - Engage family in CFTs and reentry planning

# Expected Outcomes

- ▶ - Stronger support network
- ▶ - Reduced isolation and recidivism
- ▶ - Improved reentry success

## Contacting Folks

- ❑ May mean mending existing relationships
- ❑ Restoring lost relationships
- ❑ Creating new relationships
- ❑ Or blending all of these approaches—healing and restoring family relationships

# Referring to Family Builders



Email to: [ACPDreferrals@familybuilders.org](mailto:ACPDreferrals@familybuilders.org)  
or Fax to: 510-536-4436

## Family Builders' and Positive Youth Development Division Alameda County Probation Department Referral

Permanency Services: for youth without a permanent plan; includes family finding and engagement; file mining, contacting relatives and others known to the youth; creating genogram; requires ongoing relationship with the youth to create a permanency plan and lifelong relationships	Family Finding This is family finding ONLY—does not include engagement or contact with relatives; provided in accordance with SB 354 and ACL 18-42; A report is created and sent to the DPO; this does not include contact with youth, family or kin	RFA/FFA: Family Builders will facilitate the Resource Family Approval process with the family. The placement will be in Family Builders' FFA and will include the family evaluation, training, preparation and case management and family support services	CFT Facilitation Facilitation of child and family team meetings	CANS Assessment Complete a CANS Assessment to evaluate the needs and strengths of youth.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PLEASE CHECK SERVICE BOX ABOVE

### Youth's Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pronouns: ☐ He/Him/His ☐ She/Her/Hers ☐ They/Them ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_  
Language(s) Spoken: \_\_\_\_\_  
Youth's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Youth's Other Provider(s) (If known or applicable): \_\_\_\_\_  
Youth's Level of Care (If known): \_\_\_\_\_



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### Family/Placement Information (Applies RFA/FFA Placement)

Name of Caregiver(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship with Youth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Placement Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address for Caregiver(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Contact for Caregiver(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Contact for Caregiver(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### Referral Information

Name of Referring DPO: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Referral Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- It is essential that Family Builders receive the dispositional report for youth receiving permanency services; family finding and RFA placements. Please forward to Family Builders when the report is available. Services will not be delayed while waiting for the report.
- For RFA/FFA Referrals:** Please also send: RFA01 forms, LIC03 forms, and EA01 forms.

### COMMENTS:

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# Q & A

- ▶ Thank you for your partnership

## Contact information

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